

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An illuminating system for emitting light through a retractor, the illuminating system comprising:

a tubular retractor having a wall and having a distal end;

a fiberoptic cable having an end, wherein the fiberoptic cable and its end are encased—~~is disposed within the tubular retractor wall; and~~ such that

—~~wherein~~ light from the fiberoptic cable illuminates substantially an entire circumference of the distal end of the tubular retractor by transmission of light through the distal end.

2. (Original) The illuminating system of claim 1 wherein an end of the fiberoptic cable is positioned at least about one-half inch from the distal end of the tubular retractor.

3. (Currently Amended) An illuminating system for transmitting light to a surgical site, the illuminating system comprising:

a tubular retractor having a distal end;

a fiberoptic cable;

a light-carrying case, wherein the light-carrying case at least partially encases the tubular retractor;

wherein the fiberoptic cable has an end and is at least partially disposed with the end within the light-carrying case wall; and

wherein the fiberoptic cable is at least capable of illuminating an entire circumference of the distal end of the tubular retractor.

4. (Original) The illuminating system of claim 3 wherein the tubular retractor is an extendable tubular retractor.

5.(Original) The illuminating system of claim 3 wherein the extendable tubular retractor is a dilator.

6.(Withdrawn) A retractor apparatus, the retractor apparatus comprising:

- an adjustable arm;

- a carriage;

- an activating device disposed in the carriage;

- a tubular retractor distally attached to the adjustable arm, wherein the tubular retractor includes a fiberoptic cable for providing light to a surgical site;

- a microscope proximally attached to the tubular retractor;

- the activating device capable of causing movement of at least the adjustable arm to selectively stiffen or release the adjustable arm;

- the activating device further comprising an engagement mechanism, the engagement mechanism capable of causing movement of at least the carriage to selectively move the carriage; and

- the engagement mechanism further comprising a camming structure and an engagement member, the camming structure capable of forcing the engagement member into engagement with the carriage.

7.(Withdrawn) The retractor apparatus of claim 6 wherein the fiberoptic cable is positioned at least about one-half inch from the distal end of the tubular retractor.

8.(Withdrawn) The retractor apparatus of claim 6 wherein light is emitted along substantially an entire circumference of a

distal end of the tubular retractor when light is transmitted through the fiberoptic cable.